(f) The allotment of funds during 2000-2001 for the projects already sanctioned by the Railways are as under:—

(iii) Bangalore-Kengeri (12.5 Km) - Rs. 0.1 cr.

(iv) Kengeri-Ramanagaram (32 Km) - Rs. 0.1 cr.

Gauge Conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia Rail Line

† 2284. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given approval to the scheme for conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia narrow gauge rail line into broad gauge; and

(b) if so, by when this scheme is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Target date for completion of the Jabalpur-Gondia gauge conversion project has not yet been fixed.

Procurement of Wagons from Public Sector Wagon Builders

2285. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Industry had asked Railways to order 60 per cent of railways wagons on public wagon builders in November, 99;

(b) whether Railway Ministry has stated that these companies could not be trusted with huge order, as reported in Telegraph, dated 18th and 19th July, 2000;

(c) if so, the reason therefor;

(d) whether Industry Ministry has again asked for reservation of 60 per cent wagon orders on the PSUs for four years; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Railway Ministry on the same?

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The proposal of Department of Heavy Industry on a policy decision for reservation of wagon orders for PSUs is presently under consideration of the Union Cabinet.

(e) Ministry of Railways are consistently following the policy of extending maximum encouragement to PSUs within the framework of Government's policy. This is reflected by the fact that the PSUs have a total load of 11105 wagons during 2000-2001 which is 18% higher than their best performance during the last 5 years. Indian Railways have recently decided on a long pending demand of PSUs to do away with the minus 30% clause in wagon tenders. This has emerged out of deliberations in the continuing dialogue between the Indian Railways and PSU Chiefs during February and August, 2000.

Extension of Secunderabad-Mehbubnagar Rail Service

2286. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend Secunderabad-Mehbubnagar rail service up to Kurnool, to help commuters; and

(b) if so, by when the new service is proposed to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.